

## Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAB-01 OMB-01 FEA-01 /074 W

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R 251655Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7531

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SAN JOE

AMEMBASSY MANGAUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 3919

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GT

SUBJECT: THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES

REF: STATE 172095

1. ASIDE FROM U.S., MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRIES TO GUATEMALA ARE THE OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN REPUBLICS. THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS, ARE WATCHED CLOSELY HERE, FIRST BECAUSE OF POSSIBILITY THEY COULD BECOME CONTAGIOUS AND SECOND BECAUSE OF THEIR EFFECT ON CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC , POLITICAL AND MILITARY COOPERAF ION, TO WHICH GUATEMALA ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IIMPORTANCE. BUT AT PRESENT NO ISSUES IN THESE COUNTRIES AFFECT GUATEMALA'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S

2. OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE, BUT STILL SIGNIFICANT, IS GUDTEMALA'S DESIRE NOT TO BE PUBLICLY OUT OF STEP WITH ITS OTHER LATIN AMERICAN NEIGHBORS ON PURELY RHETORICAL  
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ISSUES, WITH NO PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES FOR GUATEMALA.

THUS IT VOTES WITH ITS SISTER REPUBLICS IN THE 20 TO ONE VOTE AT SAN JOSE ON COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY, DESPITE ITS OWN LACK OF INTEREST IN THE IEDA AND PRIVATELY EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR US OBJECTIONS. THUS IT VOTES WITH THE THIRD WORLD ON MOST UN ISSUES, PARTICULARLY ECONOMIC ONES, EXCEPT FOR THOSE WHICH THE US HAS SIGNALLED ARE OF KEY IMPORTANCE TO US BECAUSE OF THEIR PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES (SUCH AS CREDENTIALS ISSUES). THUS THE LIP SERVICE PAID TO THIRD WORLD ISSUES IN PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S RECENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA. BUT ON MATTERS INVOLVING A GUATEMALAN FINANCIAL COMMITMENT, SUCH AS NAMUCAR, OR THOSE DIRECTLY AFFECTING US-GUATEMALAN BILATERAL INTERESTS, SUCH AS THE TRADE ACT, GUATEMALA HAS TAKEN PRAGMATIC, MODERATE POSITIONS.

3. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL: (1) DISMANTLING OAS SANCTIONS AFFECTED US-GUATEMALAN RELATIONS ONLY TO EXTENT THAT GUATEMALA FEARED, PARTICULARLY PRE-QUITO, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE KEPT CLOSELY INFORMED OF US DECISIONS AND MIGHT BE LEFT OUT ON LIMB WITHOUT COMPANY OF EITHER US OR MOST LATINS. SAME CONCERN SEEMS TO BE MOTIVATING GUATEMALA'S POSITION AT SAN JOSE, BUT ACTUAL OUTCOME WILL NOT AFFECT GUATEMALA'S POLICY TOWARD CUBA OR TOWARD U.S. (2) US-CUBAN RELATIONS ARE OF ONLY MILD INTEREST, AND WOULD AFFECT RELATIONS HERE ONLY IF CUBA WERE TO RESUME ACTIVE SUPPORT OF INSURGENCIES AND US WERE INDIFFERENT. (3) AND (4) GUATEMALA CANNOT OPPOSE RETURN OF CANAL TO PANAMA, BUT IS NOT GREATLY INTERESTED IN ISSUE AS LONG AS US-PANAMANIAN RELATIONS DO NOT SERIOUSLY DETERIORATE. (5) GUATEMALA WOULD REGRET CONTINUANCE OF OPEC EXCLUSION, AND WOULD VOTE FOR RESOLUTIONS OF PROTEST, BUT WOULD NOT PERMIT VENEZUELA'S AND ECUADOR'S PROBLEMS TO INTERFERE WITH ITS ENJOYMENT OF GSP.

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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